

**SECRET**

(CLASSIFICATION)

64-1198

NSC REFERRAL NOT REQUIRED **CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY****EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM****OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM No. 125DATE 17 February 1964**TO:****ROOM NO.**

Deputy Director (Plans)  
 Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
 Deputy Director (Science & Technology)  
 Deputy Director (Support)  
 Comptroller  
 Inspector General  
 General Counsel  
 Assistant Director for National Estimates  
Chief, FE Division - ACTION  
Assistant Director/CI


*DCI handled by phone on 13 Feb. No action necessary.*

TO Chief, FE: We understand that Mr. Colby knows of this.  
 Reference paragraph 2, please prepare response  
 for DCI signature.

O/Executive Director

ExDir:drm

Distribution: As above; 1-DCI; 1-DDCI; 1-ER; (1-ExDir)

This memorandum contains information for the addressees. Addressees may give this memorandum additional circulation within their components as required. All copies should be destroyed, not filed, upon completion of circulation. A master file will be kept in the Executive Director's Office and will be available upon request.

MORI/CDF

(CLASSIFICATION)

GROUP 1  
 Excluded from automatic  
 downgrading and  
 declassification

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET

February 14, 1964

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 280

## MEMORANDUM TO:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ✓  
THE ADMINISTRATOR, AID

I have today determined that it is essential to establish in Washington a small committee for the management of U. S. policy and operations in South Vietnam. After consultation with the Secretary of State, I have designated Mr. William Sullivan of the Department of State to serve as Chairman of this committee, under the direct supervision of the Secretary of State.

I now request that the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development nominate to me individuals from their departments and agencies to serve as members of Mr. Sullivan's committee. The officers so nominated will be expected to give an absolute priority to their obligations as members of this committee and as agents for the execution of approved decisions. On this basis, I have already designated Mr. Michael Forrestal to serve as the White House representative on this committee.

Major questions of policy and operations will be subject to my approval in consultation with heads of departments and agencies as appropriate. In the execution of approved policy, it is my desire that Mr. Sullivan's committee shall move energetically, and that department appeal from Mr. Sullivan's decisions shall be kept at a minimum. He is being appointed because

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THE WHITE HOUSE

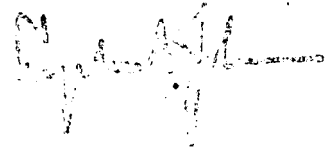
WASHINGTON

SECRET

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he commands the confidence not only of myself and of the Secretary of State, but also of senior officials of all agencies concerned.

It is my hope and expectation that the establishment of this committee will permit an energetic, unified and skillful prosecution of the only war we face at present.

A handwritten signature, likely of Dwight D. Eisenhower, is visible in the center of the page. The signature is written in dark ink and appears to be "Dwight D. Eisenhower".

SECRET